

REMARKS

By the foregoing amendment, applicants have cancelled claims 11-15, directed to non-elected inventions, without disclaimer or prejudice. However, applicants expressly reserve their right to file one or more divisional application(s) claiming the benefits afforded by 35 U.S.C. §§119, 120 and 121. Claims 1 and 5-8 have been amended to eliminate minor typographical errors.

Although applicants note the examiner's statements regarding the American Inventor's Protection Act of 1999, and further note that neither of the PCT applications which matured into the cited WO publications were filed in English, as both published in German. Thus, their effective date as references is as of their publication dates.

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Schottek et al (WO 00/20466). The Schottek et al reference has an effective date of April 2000.

Alternatively, claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Schottek et al (WO 00/62928). The effective date of WO 00/62928 is October 2000.

Still further, claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Watanabe (U.S. Patent 6,548,443). The effective date of Watanabe is August 2000.

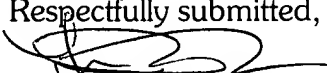
However, applicants respectfully direct the examiner's attention to the fact that the applicants claimed the benefit of convention priority of Japanese Patent Application No. H11-370676, filed December 27, 1999, and Japanese Patent Application No. H11-370664, filed December 27, 1999.

Enclosed herewith are verified English language translations of such priority documents which support the originally claimed subject matter of the instant invention.

As the support, for example, for independent claim 1, applicants direct the examiner's attention to the Abstract on page 35 of the English language translation of document 11-370676, as well as the Abstract on page 33 of the English language translation of document 11-370664. Support for the organoaluminum compounds as claimed, for example, in claim 2 can be found on page 6, paragraph 0006, of the '676 translation. Similarly, the limitations of the other dependent claims, e.g., the Brønsted acid salt, is described beginning at page 15, *et seq.*, including halides of metal atoms being found in the pages following.

In summary, the Japanese priority documents as set forth in the verified English translations submitted herewith, provide a basis for antedating each of the cited references. As each of the cited references are not "prior art," they cannot be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102. Accordingly, withdrawal of all rejections and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

Thomas P. Pavelko
Registration No. 31,689

STEVENS, DAVIS, MILLER & MOSHER, L.L.P.
1615 L Street, N.W., Suite 850
Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone: (202) 785-0100
Facsimile: (202) 408-5200 or (202) 408-5088
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